



Grinnell PARKS AND RECREATIONS BOARD meeting  
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.  
GARC

Minutes

ROLE CALL: Jean Reavis, Bill Molison, Ray Spriggs, Ralph Eyberg, Kama Small, Jean Reavis, Shawn Walters, Dave Popp and Kelly Rose.

APPROVE AGENDA: At 7:04pm Spriggs motioned to approve the agenda and Molison seconded the motion.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES: Spriggs motioned that we approve the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes and Molison seconded it.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Master Parks Plan – priority of projects, fundraising opportunities, grant writing, goals for 2014-2015 fiscal year
  - Spriggs / Small / Molison – Central Park. Current concept was presented to the entire board. Copy of it can be found on the City of Grinnell website. Rose is available to do a presentation of the conceptual drawings if any group would like to hear the presentation. These plans are still tentative and will be revised based on public input and amount of funding that comes in. Projected funding sources are:
    1. Grants \$1,000,000
    2. Private donations \$1,000,000
    3. Grinnell College \$500,000
    4. City of Grinnell \$1,000,000
  - Queathem/ Reavis/Walters – Summer Street Park. A spring build and clean-up are planned by Imagine Grinnell.
  - Eyberg – Parks and Cemetery Vegetation. Eyberg will do more inspection of possible damage to trees from deer as the weather and conditions improve.
2. Arbor Lake Bridge construction and bridge repair still in the works. Rose shared an email from Jonathan Larson and Deborah Michaels about their interest in the bridge repair along the wooded trail.
3. Skate Park – gathering names for task force. If interested let the Recreation Department know.
4. Dog Park –The sub-committee did not meet this past month. Reavis requested another map from the City of Grinnell with possible locations with an acre or more of land that might be available to develop park on.
5. Park Improvement Fund – initial goal has been reached. Projects are being completed.
  - Aquatic Center Shed – DONE
  - West Merrill Ball Diamond Shed – DONE
  - Park Entrance Signs - DONE
  - Lions Park Parking Lot – DONE
  - Summer Street Natural Playscape – Third build complete. Another build and Little Bear Creek clean up planned by Imagine Grinnell.
  - Summer Street Recreational Trail – Shawn Walters and Rose to complete this project
  - West Merrill Restroom Renovation – German's to begin work
  - Miller Park Playground Equipment – has arrived and will need to be installed.
  - Arbor Lake South Side Trail –Additional work in spring to be completed
  - Pet Drinking Fountain Arbor Lake – German's to begin work on Arbor Lake Fountain.
  - Bailey Park Shelter painting – nearly completed
6. Little Free Library at Bailey Park – It has arrived and Popp working with the Library on install.
7. Request to plant tree at Arbor Lake – Rose and Popp will complete the planting of the tree.

8. Request from James Miller Family for park improvements – Boulder placed at Park entrance. Looking at installing sidewalk from parking lot to shelter house in the spring. Family working on securing enough funding.
9. Memorial bench – Request to construct a bench at Arbor Lake. Board would prefer bench to be built at Summer Street Park. Called family again about changing location to Summer Street. They have not given us the go ahead yet.
10. Request to plant a tree at Summer Street Park – Ernie Blankenfeld family donated money for two Maple trees. They will be planted this coming spring at Summer Street Park.
11. Aquatic Center Bleachers – request from Grinnell Newburg tennis team to have the bleachers moved down to the tennis court for their spring season. School has decided not to use our heavy metal bleachers.
12. 2015 Grants – PCA grant was requesting second spray feature at Aquatic Center for \$6,000. Grinnell College Mini-grant was for \$8,000 for 3 parking stalls and concrete under existing shelter at Summer Street Park. Rose submitted both in January and has yet to hear back from either one of them.
13. Park Improvement Financial Report – Rose presented current financials to board. There looks to be around \$17,000 left after we complete the initial projects pending any large unforeseen expenses. It was discussed that the next project on the list should be the revitalization of Bailey Park. This would include a new structure to hold two handicap accessible restrooms, sidewalk from the West parking lot to the shelter, sidewalk around the shelter and renovation of the existing Skate Park. We will be looking for committee members to help us with the design and fundraising. Walter volunteered to be on this committee. If any else is interested they can contact Rose at the Recreation Department.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. East Merrill Park planting bed – We are in need of an individual or group to keep up on the weeding of this flower bed. Eyberg approached the current individuals who had been responsible for it. Neither one feels they have the time to do it. Eyberg said he could take it on. Rose suggested that we get a few people to commit to it so we make sure it is kept up. The Master Gardner's have provided all the plants for the bed. Eyberg will keep us updated.
2. Member Reappointment – Reavis and Small are up for reappointment on 3/31/15. Both Reavis and Small are willing to stay on the board.
3. Tree ordinance – City council has requested the Parks and Recreation Board to review right-of-way tree planting ordinance to encourage more tree plantings. Popp presented the current application form and charges which includes \$50 for the permit and \$10 for each of the underground utilities. He is concerned that the City of Grinnell will be receiving about 480 trees that will be earmarked for Right-of-Way parking and not sure that we will be able to sell the trees and have residents also pay for the fee. It was motioned by Small that the application process should stay in place which approves location and species but remove the fee permanently. With no fee we should be able to create a better tree canopy over our streets which is one of our goals for the Urban Forestry Grant. Walters seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Popp reported that the City of Grinnell will be receiving trees from three grants this year. 60 of the trees will be from the Urban Forestry Grant. 110 from Alliant Energy will arrive this spring with 20 of them will go out at Lane Creek on the South end of town along the highway. The last 300 will come this fall from Operation Re-Leaf. These trees will be available for the public to purchase at a reduced rate.
4. Dawg Park - Rose attended a meeting to discuss the Good, the Bad and the Ugly about Dawg Parks. She explained a bit more about the conversations and topics that were covered. Rose suggested that the Dog Park Committee meet back up to help figure out a location and discuss our wants, needs and wishes. Reavis also presented a grant opportunity called "Pet Safe" that awards one \$100,000 grand prize and four other \$25,000 prizes. It is based on votes for your town. Everyone can vote up to two times per day. She has investigated what other towns have done and will be trying to get other city officials and community members involved to help spread the word and get it set up so we can start voting. Last year the votes took place around May for a couple of weeks. The prize money can be used to purchase land and material. Reavis will keep us updated.

5. Board & Commission Member Training – opportunity on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for our board members to attend training at the Public Safety Building. An email was sent out to all board members. They are to RSVP if they plan on attending.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Aquatics, & Athletics; Community wellness & children's activities (Kama and Kelly)
2. Alternative transportation routes & recreation trails; Senior activities, Central Park, & volunteer development (Liz, Jean, Kelly)
3. Public information and donor & volunteer development (Liz, Jean)
4. Vegetation management, turf management, tree maintenance, and park & grounds maintenance; Special planting projects, community beautification, and volunteer development (Ralph)

#### NOTES:

INQUIRES: Popp will be sending us all the dates and locations for the Urban Forestry Grant meetings. The next one is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-3pm inside the Drake Library.

ADJOURN: Reavis made the motion at 7:45pm to adjourn the meeting and Spriggs seconded.

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Parks and Recreation Director  
Kelly M Johnson Rose